

CALFED OPERATIONS COORDINATION GROUP  
September 26, 2001 MEETING NOTES AND ACTION ITEMS

**Review of August 22 meeting notes**

No revisions were made to the August 22, 2001, CALFED Ops meeting notes.

**Announcements**

No announcements were made.

The following handouts were provided at the meeting:

1. CALFED Operations Briefing Package; September 26, 2001; John Leahigh; DWR
2. Delta Cross Channel Studies: Status and Needs; September 14, 2001 ; Bruce Herbold; EPA
3. Winter-run Chinook Salmon, Steelhead, and Spring-run Chinook Update, September 26, 2001, Bruce Oppenheim
4. Delta Smelt Update; Dan Buford; FWS

**SWRCB**

On September 21, 2001, the SWRCB issued a Clean Water Act section 401 certification for the Delta Wetlands project. This action enables the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to issue a permit for the project under section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

The SWRCB will hold a workshop in early December to receive public comment on progress toward meeting the narrative salmon objective contained in the 1995 Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan. The workshop will address: (a) the current status of existing programs designed to improve the natural production of chinook salmon within the Central Valley watershed, and (b) what additional actions, if any, should the SWRCB undertake to achieve a doubling of natural production of salmon.

The SWRCB will also hold a workshop in early December in Ontario to address water issues in southern California. The workshop will focus on the Imperial Irrigation District transfer to San Diego and the California 4.4 Plan. To the extent that issues relating to the Colorado River are not resolved, there could be potential impacts in the Delta.

The water level response plan submitted to the SWRCB by the DWR and the USBR, as required by D-1641, will expire on October 6. There must be an approved water level response plan before Joint Point of Diversion operations

can take place. Many water transfers have also been conditioned on the existence of an approved plan. Future water transfers are likely to be similarly conditioned.

There was a presentation made to the SWRCB on September 20 by parties participating in the Sacramento Valley Water Management Agreement describing the progress that has been made toward the short-term and long-term workplans that are required by the agreement. Information relating to the agreement is available on the Northern California Water Association website.

### **Environmental Water Account Strategy for 2002**

The EWA strategy is to have lower costs and build a groundwater reserve. There is a 50 taf carryover going into this winter compared to 72 taf last year.

### **Delta Cross Channel Gate Experiment**

A handout of the status and needs of the Delta Cross Channel Gate Experiment was distributed and discussed. The biologists would like to reduce the Delta Cross Channel flows by 50% (mostly at night) for 3 weeks in October in order to see measurable change in fish behavior.

### **65% Delivery Target for CVP south of Delta Contractors Update**

A draft document has been produced and is being reviewed in Washington. It should be available by the next CALFED Ops meeting.

### **b(2) Accounting**

The b(2) accounting has become more difficult and complex. A review of the modeling and hydrology is being made to resolve differences.

### **Fall Installation of HOR Barrier**

Fish and Game has requested installation of the fall barriers. The target date for installation and operational of the Head of Old River barrier is October 6, 2001. The Old River and Middle River barriers have been notched for the passage of adult upmigrating Chinook salmon. The fish weir at Grant Line canal is being operated for the same purpose. All of the barriers will be removed by the end of November. Modeling studies will be performed to determine if the culverts at the HORB need to be opened to maintain adequate water levels downstream in the south Delta.

## **OFF and DAT Update**

Delta Cross Channel Gate Experiment, DWR Letter, and Joint Recommendation to WOMT were items discussed by OFF during the month.

A review of the DAT decision tree was suggested.

## **Fishery Status**

Salmon: A handout on the status of winter-run chinook, steelhead, and spring-run chinook salmon was distributed and discussed. Nothing to report on steelhead. Counts of Chinese mitten crabs have increased at the projects, but they are not a concern yet.

Splittail: October 1, 2001 is the end of the comment period. The publish date of final report is scheduled to be January 31, 2002.

Delta Smelt: A delta smelt update handout was distributed. Discussions on delta smelt were deferred to the next CALFED Ops meeting.

## **OPERATIONS**

### CVP/SWP Operations Status:

The Ops package was distributed and discussed. Operating to meet Contra Costa Canal chloride standard of 250 mg/l and monthly average Delta outflow of 4,000 cfs. Preparing draft updating the Water Level Response Plan.

### Operations Plan:

Working on a preliminary of the 90% outlook for the 2002 work plan. The 90% and 50% outlooks should be completed by the next CALFED Ops meeting. Scheduled for the third weekend of October is the 1,000 cfs pulse flow on the Stanislaus River lasting about 10 days.

## **Agenda items for Next Meeting . . . October 24, 2001**

The next CALFED Ops meeting will start at 1:30 pm.  
Tier III Process  
Update from SJR Flow Forecast (Nigel Quinn)  
2002 Operations Plan Summary